



Bryce Yokomizo
Director

July 17, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: SSI ADVOCACY FOR CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR IMMIGRANTS

I am pleased to report the success of our Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants Supplemental Security Income Advocacy Program (CAPI SSIAP). The program began in February 2002 when, due to the State's budget shortfall, the CAPI program was at risk of reduction/elimination. The goal of CAPI SSIAP is to transition elderly/disabled immigrants from the State-funded CAPI program to the federally funded SSI program. CAPI SSIAP has exceeded our expectations, yielding tremendous benefits to the approximately 6,000 immigrant participants in the CAPI program.

As of June 30, 2002, 1,498 SSI applications (25% of the CAPI caseload) were submitted to the Social Security Administration (SSA). We have already received 485 SSA determinations, of which 433 (89%) were approvals. Due to the transition from the State CAPI program to the federal SSI program, the State has saved approximately \$2.8 million. We have accomplished this without hiring new staff. The State reimburses Los Angeles County 100% of the costs, as this is an allowable administrative expense.

According to the Governor's May Revise, the State will keep the CAPI program fully funded for FY 2002-2003. In an effort to help preserve the CAPI program, DPSS provided a presentation to the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) CAPI Counties Workgroup on May 9, 2002. At this presentation, materials were provided to assist the counties and consortia with significant CAPI populations to create their own customized version of our CAPI SSIAP program.

I attribute our success to my staff's dedication in providing SSI Advocacy for our CAPI participants, the provision of services in the participant's primary language and the cooperation of the SSA. I look forward to providing you more good news on this promising program as we continue to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

BY:gap

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

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